Claims

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed is:

1. A system for establishing a level of security in a personal computer having a memory and a stored operating system, the system comprising:

a securing profile generated when the system is turned on and reflecting features including the number of unsuccessful power-on password attempts and at least one other factor chosen from time of day, day of week and security level of authorization of the user; and

allowing or denying use of the personal computer to the user based on the security profile.

2. A system for providing security in a personal computer including the elements of Claim 1 wherein the security profile includes a log of the access attempts for the personal computer and the results of each attempt.

3. A system of the type described in Claim 2 wherein the security profile can be altered to a less secure state only by a system owner through the use of a password different that the password of a normal user.

4. A system of the type described in Claim 3 for improving security of a personal computer wherein the security profile can be altered to a more secure state by a normal user.

5. A system for providing computer security including the elements set forth in Claim 4 where the security profile includes a plurality of binary indicators have a more secure state and a less secure state, and a normal user of the computer system may change at least one of the binary indicators from a less secure state to a more secure state.

6. A system for providing computer security including the elements set forth in Claim 5 wherein a user with a security password may change at least one of the binary indicators from a more secure state to a less secure state.

1　　7. A method of providing improved security in a personal computer having an

2　　operating system and a security profile stored in memory, the steps of the method

3　　comprising:

4　　generating a security profile with indications of greater or lesser security and

5　　storing the security profile in the personal computer;

6　　using the security profile to determine what access, if any, a normal user will be

7　　permitted to have to the computer system; and

8　　allowing the normal user to change the security profile from a level of lesser

9　　security to a level of greater security but denying the normal user to change the

10　　security profile from a level of greater security to a level of lesser security.

8. A method of providing security in a personal computer including the steps of

Claim 7 and further including the step of allowing a privileged user with a security

password to change the security profile from a level of greater security to a level

of lesser security.

1　　9. A method of providing security in a personal computer including the steps of

2　　Claim 8 and further including the step of updating the security profile in response

3　　to a security risk.

10. A method of providing security in a personal computer including the steps of Claim 9 and further including the step of responding to an attempt to open a cover of the personal computer and indicating the security risk associated with the attempt to open the cover in the security profile.

1   11. A program stored on a media for providing security functions in a personal

     computer comprising:

     a module for generating a security profile including an indication of the number

     of times that an unsuccessful password attempt can be performed before the

5   personal computer is shut down and will require a security password to reset the

6   personal computer can be operated; and

7   a module responsive to the security profile for determining whether a user will be

8   permitted to access the personal computer and what facilities of the personal

9   computer that user will be permitted to access.